

Greenhouse diseases at low levels but should be monitored

Special points of interest:

- *West Coast plant material being inspected for a federal and state regulated disease.*
- *Walnut imports into state break quarantine.*

It is the season...growers are working hard in starting crops, receiving orders and gardens are being dug and people are thinking spring.

Well it is also the time that KDA staff are out monitoring pest conditions in greenhouses to guard against importation of serious disease and insect problems and to protect the consumer against "buggy" plant material.

In first of the season inspections, disease levels were low and insect populations were moderate to high. The most important pest problem was aphids in several crops and locations. Most of the growers were already treating the pesky bugs but aphid populations were well out in front. Thrips were also a problem but at low levels.

As far as diseases, damping off was found in all locations but at low levels. The biggest problem was some carry over succulent plants material (Hoya) with Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus.

Figure 1. Necrotic ring pattern associated with Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus on Hoya.
C.Copeland. KDA

It is extremely important for growers to monitor thrips and imported plant material for INSV. Holding over plants from one season to another is an invitation for the disease after it is introduced to be a continual problem over many years.



Phytophthora ramorum pre notification inspections

KDA staff is working with growers who receive plant material from the west coast that may carry *Phytophthora ramorum*, the fungus causes various diseases on a wide array of plants. The significance of this disease is that the fungus not only affects nursery crops but is lethal to many oak species, particularly red oaks.

High risk species are Camellia, Rhododendron including Azalaes, Pieris, Viburnum, and Kalmia. Staff are testing suspect material at sites with test strips that give results to the genus. Further testing if needed to species level is being conducted at Great Plains Diagnostic Clinic at KSU. *Phytophthora* diseases are regulated

by the Pest Freedom Standards required for distribution of plant material in Kansas. **Figure 2.** *P. ramorum* leaf spots of rhododendron.



On a related note: Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma Departments of Agriculture with USDA-APHIS recently conducted a bio security response exercise regarding exotic *Phytophthora*'s similar to *P. ramorum*.

PLANT PROTECTION AND WEED CONTROL
PROGRAM

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INVASIVE SPECIES

Plant Protection and Weed Control Program

Plant Protection and Weed Control staff work to ensure the health of the state's native and cultivated plants by excluding or controlling destructive pests, diseases and weeds. Staff examine and analyze pest conditions in crop fields, rangelands, greenhouses and nurseries. Action taken to control potential infestations of new pests, whether they are insects, plants diseases or weeds, is beneficial to the economy and the environment.

Our Mission is to:

- Exclude or control harmful insects, plant diseases, and weeds;
- Ensure Kansas plants and plant products entering commerce are free from quarantine pests;
- Provide customers with inspection and certification services.

The Plant Disease Survey in Kansas has been conducted since 1976. The survey addresses disease situations in field crops, native ecosystems, and horticultural trade. The Kansas Department of Agriculture works cooperatively with Kansas State University and Extension programs, United States Department of Agriculture, and various commodity groups.

Walnut importations into Kansas

Recently the Plant Protection Program was made aware of firewood imported into the state containing walnut with a possible breach of the July 2010 quarantine for Thousand Cankers Disease TCD and the Walnut Twig Beetle WTB. The wood was indeed found in several locations of a statewide grocery chain.

During the investigation, it was determined that the walnut firewood was harvested in Iowa. The disease and insect status in Iowa is not known since little survey has been conducted in the state. It is believed to be not present or es-

tablished.

Within the Kansas TCD quarantine, states (where the disease has not been reported) importing walnut firewood must have a current survey or production site inspections to verify the wood is free of the disease and vector insect. The quarantine also contains language that during the first year allows states that have yet to survey a process to ask for a waiver during the first year of the quarantine.

Iowa is currently asking for the waiver.

In addition, KDA staff have visited a number of stores in-

specting bundles for walnut and the signs of WTB insect infestation. No signs of disease or insect have been found during these inspections.

Figures 3 and 4. WTB entry holes in walnut in Colorado, M. Kennelly, KSU and below, walnut in firewood bundles, T Sanders, KDA.

